

C. Remarks

The pending claims are 1, 13 and 16, with all of the claims being independent. Claims 2-10, 12, 14, 15 and 17-33 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1 and 16 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 3 and 8 (claim 1) and claims 21 and 22 (claim 16). Applicants submit that no new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

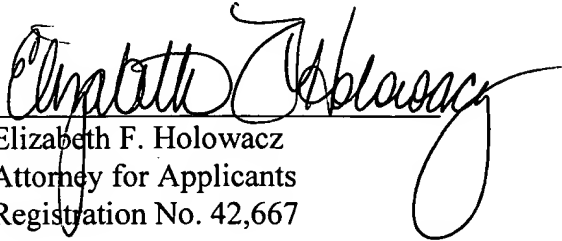
Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication in the final Office Action that claim 13 was allowed and that claims 8 and 22 were allowable. At this time, in an effort to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 16 to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claims 8 and 22, respectively, and intervening claims 3 and 21, respectively. Claim 13 has been maintained, and the remainder of the claims have been cancelled. Accordingly, all of the presently pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Furthermore, each of the §103 rejections advanced in the final Office Action is directed to claims which are presently cancelled. Accordingly, Applicants submit that those §103 rejections are now moot and should be withdrawn.

This Amendment After Final Rejection is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance. Its entry is therefore believed proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment After Final Rejection, as an earnest attempt to advance prosecution, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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